



BOROUGH OF LUDLOW.

ANNUAL REPORT.

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1965.

P U B L I C H E A L T H O F F I C E R S .

Medical Officer of Health

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Public Health Inspector.

H.V.James, M.A.P.H.I., M.I.Mun. E.

Public Health Laboratory Service,

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C O N T E N T S.

Public Health Officers.

Introduction.

Vital Statistics.

Section A : General Statistics and notes on Vital Statistics.

Section B : General provisions of Health Service.

Section C : Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

Section D : Housing.

Section E : Inspection and Supervision of Food Supply.

Section F : Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health. 1965.

Municipal Offices,
Ludlow.
July, 1966.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Ludlow,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1965.

This shows that the work of the Public Health Department has continued in its rather unspectacular way in spite of staff shortages. I say unspectacular thankfully, for this means that we, with the co-operation of the General Practitioners and the Hospital Services, have been successful in guarding the health of the Public.

A study of the Vital Statistics confirms that the health of the Borough is good.

It is pleasing to report that the new Sewage Works is very efficient and produces a very satisfactory effluent.

There has been 100% meat inspection again this year even although there has been a 39% increase in the number of animals killed.

The Slum Clearance Programme is now largely in abeyance and will remain so until there is a more immediate prospect of new Council houses being built.

It is my pleasure to thank my colleagues for their help throughout the year, especially Mr. James, the Public Health Inspector, and to thank him and Mr. Boulton for their help in preparing this report.

Elizabeth Capper.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS - 1965.Live Births.

Number	Male 67	Female 60	Total	127.
Rate per 1,000 population				18.17
Illegitimate live births (per cent of total live births)				3.94

Stillbirths.

Number	Male 1.	Female 1.	Total	2.
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births				15.5

Total Live and Still Births. 129

Infant Deaths. (deaths under one year) Male 0. Females 3. Total 3.

Infant Mortality Rates.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	23.62
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0.

Neo-natal Mortality Rate. (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births) 23.62

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate. (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births) 15.75

Perinatal Mortality Rate. (Still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 31.01

Maternal Mortality Rate. (including abortion)

Number of deaths	0.
Rate per 1,000 live and still births	0.

Crude Death Rate. (per 1,000 population) 14.74.

Standardised Death Rate. 11.35

Standardised Birth Rate. 18.9

Rates for England & Wales 1965.

Birth Rate	18.0
Death Rate	11.5
Infant Mortality Rate	19.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate	13.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	26.9

General Statistics and Notes on Vital Statistics.

Area (in acres)	1,068
Registrar Generals Estimate of population	6,990
Number of inhabited houses	2,452

There is an increase of 80 in the population this year, compared with an increase of 110 last year. The population has increased gradually and steadily during recent years with of course just such minor fluctuations.

Births.

There was a considerable increase in the number of live births - 127 compared with 108 in 1964. So this year both the crude and standardised birth rates are higher than the rate for England & Wales. These rates have been lower than the national figure for several years.

The percentage of illegitimate live births is about half that for 1964; thus the rising tendency of recent years has been halted.

Stillbirths.

The still birth rate of 15.5 is nearly double the figures for 1963 & 1964 and is roughly the same as the rate for several years before 1963.

Infant Mortality.

There were three female infant deaths and no male infant deaths. Two of the babies died within the first week of life and the third within the first month.

The Infant Mortality rate of 23.62 is very high if compared with the unusually low figure of 9.26 for 1964 but there is a gradual falling tendency during the last few years.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no maternal deaths in 1965.

Deaths.

There were 103 deaths (41 male & 62 female) and last year there were 110.

The crude death rate of 14.74 is slightly lower than last years figure but the standardised death rate shows little variation from year to year and is just under the rate for England and Wales.

Deaths.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths from all causes	41	62	103
Malignant disease (stomach)		2	2
Malignant disease (lung)	1	1	2
Malignant disease (breast)		1	1
Malignant disease (uterus)		1	1
Other malignant diseases	7	4	11
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	15	19
Coronary disease, angina	12	7	19
with heart disease	1	2	3
Other heart diseases	1	11	12
Other circulatory diseases	1	2	3
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	5	1	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	3	4
Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	10	15
All other accidents	1	1	2
	<hr/> 41	<hr/> 62	<hr/> 103

Diseases of the heart and circulation caused 54.% of the deaths which is a slight increase on the figure for recent years - it remains at roughly 50%

Respiratory diseases caused 8.7% of the deaths - this being a return to the pre-1962 figure. In 1962 the respiratory diseases caused 19.3% of deaths. Cancer caused 16.5% of the deaths - this figure remains remarkably constant each year.

50% of the deaths occurred in the over 75 years age group and six of these were actually 90 years of age or more, death occurring at the ages of 90,92,97,99 90 and 90 years.

It is very sad to record the death of a boy of 16 years and also of a man of 31 and a woman of 32, both of whom were parents of young children.

There were no deaths from suicide this year.

S E C T I O N BGeneral provisions of the Health Services.Staff.

The one session a week the Medical Officer of Health devotes to Borough duties is on Monday mornings - excluding the 2nd Monday in the month, when it is altered to Thursday morning. If she should be needed in an emergency she can always be found by application to the County Health Office - telephone Shrewsbury 52211.

It has been impossible for some years now for the Public Health Inspector to cope with all the work, the volume of which increases yearly and routine work is bound to suffer. In view of coming changes it is not considered practicable to get assistance meantime.

Laboratory Services.

Once again our thanks are given to Dr. Jones and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory. He examines for us the weekly samples of the chlorinated water supplied to the Borough, and those taken from the swimming bath.

Ambulance Service.

The new Ambulance Station was opened at Craven Arms at the end of December. In cases of accidents, an emergency 999 telephone call should be made to call an ambulance immediately and the telephone operator can be consulted at the same time about contacting a doctor and the police if necessary.

Nursing Services.

Working in the Borough and the surrounding district in the year were one full time Health Visitor, one Health Visitor/District Nurse/Midwife and one part time District Nurse. Nurse Haslam who has been a District Nurse Midwife for many years retired in November and she will be greatly missed by her patients who were her friends.

Veneral Diseases Clinic.

Belmont : Shrewsbury.

Males	Tuesdays and Fridays	6.0 p.m. - 8.0 p.m.
Females	Mondays	3.30p.m. - 5.30p.m.
	Thursdays	5.0 p.m. - 7. 0p.m.

Public Lavatories.

Although agreed last year that improvements to the Linney Recreation Ground toilets were necessary it has been difficult to progress very far with the plans for new toilets.

County Road Safety Officer.

The cost of the County Road Safety Officer is to be a charge on the whole of the County excluding Shrewsbury Borough which has its own Officer.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

As from 1st April 1965 there are new statutory provisions for the registration and control of scrap metal dealers.

Social Services.

Many voluntary organisations undertake a surprising amount of social work in the town, especially amongst the large number of old people, unfortunately details cannot be given here of all this work.

The Schools Social Service Scheme has prospered and representatives from each of the Secondary Schools have attended the meetings of the Old Peoples Welfare Committee.

The Meals on Wheels service continues to give both food and regular friendly visiting, thanks to the Womens Voluntary Services.

Home Helps.

Again this year no Home Helps were required for midwifery cases.

There are 10 Home Helps working as required in the Borough and in 1965 there were only 20 old people taking advantage of this service.

The full charge is 5/6d per hour, but this is adjusted according to the ability to pay.

Child Welfare Centres.

Dinham	Mondays	1-30p.m.	-	4-30 p.m.
New Street	Thursdays	1-30p.m.	-	4-30 p.m.

A doctor attends the New Street clinic on the second and fourth Thursday in the month.

Other clinics are held at Dinham as follows:-

dental, mothercraft & relaxation, audiology, chest diseases, immunisation & vaccination, speech therapy and child guidance. Attendance at these is by appointment.

Family Planning.

There are Family Planning Association Clinics at Shrewsbury, Hereford Leominster & Kidderminster. Details of these can be obtained from Family Doctors or the Child Welfare Centres.

SECTION 'C'Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supplies : The water supply to the Borough has been generally adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality and purity. No water supplied has plumbo-solvent action.

All premises within the Borough are supplied from the Public Mains. Of the 2452 houses, 2359 have direct connections and 93 are served by stand-pipes within reasonable distance.

88 samples were taken during the year for bacteriological analysis, of which 81 were satisfactory.

Chemical Analyses of the two main sources of supply resulted as follows:

CERTIFICATES OF ANALYSES

	<u>Seifton Supply</u> <u>(High Level)</u>	<u>Burway Supply</u> <u>(Low Level)</u>
Appearance	Slightly turbid, many large particles.	Bright, few small particles.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.007	0
Albuminoid Nitrogen	1.12	0
Chlorine in Chlorides	25.1	27.3
Nitrate Nitrogen	4.4	6.8
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 27°C. in 4 hours.)	3.0	0
Total Solids dried at 100°C	770	380
Total Dissolved Solids	320	
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.002	0
Free Chlorine	7.5	7.35
pH	0.	0
Radioactivity:	-	-
Electrical Conductivity @ 20°C.	429 micromhos.	478 micromhos.

High Level - Seifton Supply - The above results show that this sample is organically of rather poor quality. It contains an enormous amount of suspended solids - principally diatomaceous earth, which affects the results.

Low Level - Burway Supply - This sample is chemically of very good quality and, subject to satisfactory bacteriological examination, the water in its present condition is suitable for use as a Public Supply.

Signed,

Bostock Hill & Rigby.

Public Analysts.

SWIMMING BATH

Period of opening was from March 29th. to December 21st. The Bath again proved most popular, the attendance figures being as follows:-

Adults.	8223.
Juniors including School Children.	46,846.
Spectators.	5,068.

29 samples of the bath water were taken during use, and analysed bacteriologically and found to be well within the official standards of purity.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Of the 2452 houses in the Borough, 2393 have main drainage, 37 are connected to satisfactory private sewage disposal systems and the remaining 22 have chemical or pail closets with satisfactory means of disposal.

The new Sewage Treatment Works & Pumping Station completed in the Autumn of 1964, is operating in a most efficient manner, as illustrated by the following results of analyses :-

<u>1965</u>	<u>Analysts remarks.</u>	<u>Suspended Solids. (Permitted standard should not exceed 30 parts/million)</u>	<u>Biological Oxygen Demand. (Permitted standard 20parts/million)</u>
Jan.	Satisfactory.	20	17
May.	Well purified effluent.	23	12
July.	Excellent.	21.	8
Aug.	Good, except X	38X	12
Sept.	Very good organic quality.	17	7

REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL.

Collection of refuse continued to be made, as in previous years, as follows :-

All domestic premises	-	Weekly
Hotels, cafes, snack bars etc.	-	Twice weekly and oftener as required in the holiday season.

60

Disposal of the ~~60~~ tons of refuse collected each week continues to be by controlled tipping using hired equipment in place of the Council's bull-dozer, the maintenance and re-conditioning of which was found to be uneconomical.

RODENT CONTROL.

Periodical surveys were made throughout the year, of the main sewers, refuse tip, sewage treatment works and other Council properties and the appropriate treatments were carried out as required.

Details of other premises visited, (including empty premises, closed or awaiting demolition under the Housing Acts) are as follows:

Private dwellings.	162
Business premises.	30
Agricultural premises.	7

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS ACTS 1937 & 1948.

There are 98 factories in the Borough, 89 with mechanical power and 9 without.

Particulars of inspections and action taken are as follows :-

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>
(1) Factories in which Sections 1.2. 3.4 & 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	4.	12.	
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	85.	110.	2.
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	9.	101.	-
Total.	98.	223.	2.

Cases where defects were found :-

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Referred by H.M. Inspector.</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	5.	5.
Indequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	2.	2.
Sanitary Conveniences.			
(a) Insufficient.	-	1.	1.
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	-	4.	4.
(c) Not suited ^{SEPARATE} for sexes.	1.	-	1.

OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

During the year a further 35 premises have been registered, the total number now being 178, made up as follows :-

Offices.	67.
Retail Shops.	91.
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses etc.	4.
Catering Establishments.	12.

106 visits have been made to those premises registered and numerous general inspections made of those premises to which the provisions of the Act are thought to apply. Considerable work still remains to be carried out before compliance with registration requirements can be obtained.

SECTION 'D'

HOUSING

Number of inhabited houses including units of accommodation at business premises.	2452
Number of houses owned by Council.	671.
Houses completed in 1965.	
a) Council.	2.
b) Private.	72.

Houses under construction as at 31.12.1965.

- | | |
|-------------|-----|
| a) Council | 4. |
| b) Private. | 29. |

Improvement Grants applied for.	22.
(of these 11 were made under section 4 House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959 and Housing Act. 1961.)	

Number of Applicants for Council Houses.	401.
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These can be classified as follows.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (a) Without homes of their own. | 81. |
| (b) Occupying houses in the Borough but desiring a change. | 100. |
| (c) Occupying sub-standard houses in the Borough. | 80. |
| (d) Living outside the Borough. | 140. |

New Houses. No progress was made regarding Stage 4, Sheet Road site, other than the approval of House plans in June.

The Scheme of 6 Bungalows, named Churchill Close, referred to in last years' report was completed in February and in June a further 4 bungalows (2 - 1 B.R. & 2 - 2 B.R.) were commenced and approaching completion at the end of the year.

Work was commenced on the conversions and re-conditioning of Nos. 46-50, Corve Street, and No.50 has been completed and re-occupied.

Moveable Dwellings. The licensed Caravan Site at Dinham continues to be maintained satisfactorily and in accordance with the Schedule of Conditions.

Action under Housing Acts.

Number of houses represented as unfit (Sec.16)	3.
Number of closing orders made.	1.
Number of Demolition Orders made.	2.
Number of undertakings by Owners to render houses fit accepted.	Nil.
Number of houses closed (Sec.17 (1) Housing Act, 1957)	1.
Number of houses demolished.	4.
Number of houses rendered fit by owner after acceptance of Undertaking.	5.
Number of houses rendered fit by Informal Action Under the Public Health Act.	12.

Comparative figures for 1964 are as follows :-

Number of houses represented as unfit (Sec.16)	3.
Number of Closing Orders made.	2.
Number of Demolition Orders made.	12.

SECTION 'E'INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Licenses for the 3 slaughterhouses were renewed for a further 12 months. Slaughtering at 2 of the premises is on a small scale but they are all well maintained in accordance with the appropriate regulations.

The arrangements for the collection of hides, inedible offal etc. and for the disposal of condemned meat, continue to be satisfactory.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND CARCASSES INSPECTED - 1965.

	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Numbers killed.	13.	Nil	1053.	7827.	3183.
Numbers inspected.	13.	-	1053.	7827.	3183.
<u>All diseases except</u> <u>Tuberculosis &</u> <u>Cysticercus Bovis.</u>					
Whole Carcasses condemned	-.	-.	1.	-.	-.
Carcasses of which some parts or organs were condemned.	-.	-.	146.	89.	101.
% of affected carcasses to numbers inspected.	-.	-.	13.96%	1.15%	3.17%
<u>Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-.	-.	-.	-.	-.
Carcasses of which some parts or organs were condemned.	-.	-.	-.	-.	24.
% of affected carcasses to numbers inspected.	-.	-.	-.	-.	0.76%
<u>Cysticercus Bovis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-.	-.	-.	-.	-.
Carcasses of which some parts or organs were condemned.	-.	-.	-.	-.	-.

Weights of Meat Condemned.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. On account of Tuberculosis. | 184 lbs. |
| 2. On account of Cysticercus Bovis. | Nil. " |
| 3. On account of other diseases. | 2865 " |

Total weight condemned. 1 Ton. 7 cwts. 25lbs.

The total number of animals slaughtered, of which there was 100% inspection, was 12076, an increase of 39% on last year's figures, although the weight of meat condemned showed only a slight increase..

MILK. The following information regarding sampling has been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health, Dr. T. S. Hall : -

32 samples of milk were taken during this year by County Council Sampling Officers, under the Food & Drugs Act, 1965 as follows:-

Pasteurized.	24.
Untreated Farm Bottled.	8.

All samples taken proved to be satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurized & Sterilized Milk) Regs. 1949-1955.

46 samples of pasteurized milk from the Pasteurizing Establishment in the Borough, were all found to be satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) (Specified Area) Order 1960.

62 samples of pasteurized milk were taken of which 61 satisfied the Phosphatase Test and 55 passed the Methylene Blue Test, with 2 voids.

12 samples of untreated Farm Bottled were subjected to the Methylene Blue Test, and 11 were satisfactory.

All the failures were followed up by "on delivery" samples being taken which then proved to be satisfactory.

ICE-CREAM. The number of premises registered for the sale of ice-cream is now 37. Only proprietary brands are retailed and only 4 sell other than pre-packed varieties.

Five samples were taken during the year, all were of satisfactory quality.

OTHER FOODS. Inspections of other foods displayed for sale have frequently been made, generally at the request of the owners and/or managers of retail shops, resulting in the following condemnations:-

Wet Fish.	36 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Canned Meats.	246 lbs.
Frozen Fish.	709 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Frozen Meat.	166 lbs.
Fruit.	13 tins.	Bacon.	21 "
Vegetables.	227 lbs.	Tomatoes.	22 tins.
Rice.	40 "	Butter	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Biscuits.	40 "	Other Foods.	12 "

Of 10 samples taken of sundry foods and drugs by County Council Sampling Officers, all were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD PREMISES. The number and types of food premises within the Borough are as follows :-

Butchers.	12.	Restaurants, Cafes	
Bakehouses.	13.	and Snack Bars.	19.
Fried Fish Shops.	3.	Food Shops.	82.

Premises registered under Section 14 Food and Drugs Act 1938 and included in the above figures are 48.

All the food premises are visited periodically and all premises, other than few food shops, now comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1960. The standard of hygiene in these few outstanding cases is satisfactory and only minor matters still require attention.

SECTION F.Prevention & Control of Infectious Diseases.

The following notifications of Infectious Diseases were notified in 1965:-

	1st. quarter.	2nd. quarter.	3rd. quarter.	4th quarter.
Whooping Cough	4			
Measles	1	9	1	
Scarlet Fever		3		
Pneumonia		2		
Respiratory Tuberculosis		1		3

No cases of food poisoning or dysentery were notified and the total number of notifications was very low. The one case of respiratory tuberculosis was a man in the 35 - 44 year age group. The incidence of new cases of tuberculosis has shown a definite falling tendency during the last ten years.

Prophylaxis.

I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information giving details of immunisation and vaccination figures in the Borough:-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

	<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 15</u>
Primary	51	57	5
Booster Doses	-	46	60

Whooping Cough:

Primary	51	55	2
Booster Dose	-	40	3

Tetanus.

51		57		35	
<u>Under 1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2-4</u>	<u>5-15</u>		<u>Over 15</u>
1	43	21	1		1
-	-	-	4		1

Poliomyelitis 3rd Doses of Oral Vaccine.

	<u>Under 1.</u>	<u>1 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 15</u>	<u>Over 15.</u>
	34	86	11	3
4th Doses of Oral Vaccine		1	50	4

Number of Cases on Tuberculosis Register December, 1965.

Pulmonary	43	
Non-pulmonary	6	
Removed from register - cured	:	2
Transferred in	:	2
Transferred out	:	1
Died	:	1

B.C.G. Vaccination.

	<u>Consents received.</u>	<u>Refusals.</u>	<u>Tested.</u>	<u>Positive.</u>	<u>Negative.</u>	<u>Vaccinated.</u>
Ludlow C.E. Modern.	128	8	111	7	97	96

